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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Spain

DATE DISTR. 17 February 1949

SUBJECT Statements of Republican Prime Minister

Alvaro de ALBORNOZ

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1. Expressing optimism regarding the prospects of the Republican cause, ALBORNOZ said that the situation had greatly improved in the past eighteen months. The Republican Prime Minister continued substantially as follows: "The cards in the international game are fairly well placed for us. Our internal problems are less acute also."
2. "The British are beginning to go deeply into the Spanish problem. They already consider that PRIETO is a failure and that his plan has no substance. They have expressed an understanding of our position, and they say that there will not be a monarchist restoration behind the backs of the people."
3. "The PRIETO failure is now obvious. I never believed in the success of that plan. But today the failure is plain to see, and we are therefore in a better situation. This failure has only one drawback. PRIETO, who has played a catastrophic role on the Spanish political scene on numerous occasions, nevertheless has one good quality. He is a republican. He provokes catastrophes through stupidity, through arrogance, through obstinacy. But he is republican and democratic. Trifon GOMEZ, who succeeds him, is neither republican nor trustworthy. Cold, calculating, realistic, he never has been republican; he is a trade-unionist, plausible and with an appearance of reasonableness and equanimity that makes him all the more dangerous. Rodolfo LLOPIS is an opportunist, without policy, without prestige, without personality. He is not the successor of LARGO Caballero. The real successor to LARGO Caballero is Trifon GOMEZ."
4. "FRANCO is playing with Don Juan. The crown can only be acquired in collaboration with FRANCO. Under those circumstances, the crown would become lead. FRANCO and Don Juan, really, are the same thing. Although they may quarrel, they are in agreement; they were in agreement before starting to confer, they are in spite of the apparent points of disagreement."
5. "I can do nothing more than I am doing. It cannot be asked of me that I proceed to weaken my authority with an approach to the Socialists. With them, unfortunately, nothing can be done for the present. They continue to be stubborn in their points of view."

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6. "The Republicans are all good, all the important and representative ones. The Socialists, for the moment, are not of any use. But they are divided. Enrique DE FRANCISCO was supported by nearly forty per cent of the Socialist votes in his opposition to PRIETO. The Republicans in Mexico have given me their confidence. It has cost me something, and I must admit there was some difficulty. But the result is favorable."

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